

PATENT

C. REMARKS**1. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 15-18 are currently pending in the Application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 9, and 15 are independent claims and have been amended to include the limitations originally found in claims 8, 14, and 20, respectively, and claims 8, 14, and 20 have been canceled. No claims have been added in this Response.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowability of claims 8, 14, and 20. These claims were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended each of the independent (base) claims and included the limitations previously found in claims 8, 14, and 20. Accordingly, claims 8, 14, and 20 have been canceled in light of the amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments properly place each of the independent claims, 1, 9, and 15, in condition for allowance.

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3. Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103, Alleged Obviousness


Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 15-18 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious, and therefore unpatentable, over U.S. Patent No. 6,252,597 to Lokuge (hereinafter "Lokuge") in view of non-prior art reference "Microsoft Word 2000 (Screen Shots)" (hereinafter "Examiner-Created Art"). In light of Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 9, and 15 that incorporate limitations found by the Examiner to be allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections to claims 1, 9, and 15 are now moot. The remaining claims each depend, directly or indirectly, on claims 1, 9, or 15, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 9, and 15 are allowable.

4. Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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